

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

**BY EMAIL**

**Our Ref: FOI 1668**

Dear 

Your request for information was received on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Office for Research Ethics Committees Northern Ireland (ORECNI) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to Supporting Material for IRAS application 247456 submitted by Carley Morrow CEO of AppAttic on the 8th of May 2018.

Please find below a response to your request:

The ORECNI no longer hold any of the supporting material for the IRAS application 247456 that was submitted on the 8th May 2018.

This trial was given an Unfavourable opinion by RECA on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

All files relating to the study were deleted on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 3 years following this Unfavourable opinion, as per our Standard Operating Instructions for Research Ethics Committees.

Section 15 of these instructions relates to the retention of documents, and states "*...the REC retains all the documentation... on which it gives an opinion... where the trial does not proceed (e.g. it is given an unfavourable opinion, or does not start following a favourable opinion), for at least 3 years from the date of the opinion.*"

I have included a link to our working instructions below:



[https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/www.hra.nhs.uk/media/documents/RES\\_Standard\\_Operating\\_Procedures\\_Version\\_7.5.1\\_August\\_2021\\_Final\\_Accessible\\_07IVkXt.pdf](https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/www.hra.nhs.uk/media/documents/RES_Standard_Operating_Procedures_Version_7.5.1_August_2021_Final_Accessible_07IVkXt.pdf)

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,  
2 Franklin Street,  
Belfast,  
BT2 8DQ

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

**Website:** [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 0303 123 1113  
**Email:** [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)  
**Post:** Information Commissioner's Office  
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,



**Karen Bailey**  
Acting Chief Executive